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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Fish and Game Commission

April 3, 2008

TO ALL AFFECTED AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the continuation notice of proposed regulatory action relative to subsection (b) of Section 362, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Big Horn Sheep, which was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on February 22, 2008, as part of the overall Mammal Hunting Regulations (Notice File No. Z08-0213-01).

**Updated Informative Digest
(Policy Statement Overview)**

Existing regulations provide for the number of bighorn sheep hunting tags for each hunt zone. This proposed regulatory action would provide for tag allocation ranges for most hunt zones pending final tag quota determinations based on survey results that should be completed by March of 2008. The final tag quotas will provide for adequate hunting opportunities while allowing for a biologically appropriate harvest of bighorn sheep. The following proposed number of tags was determined using the procedure described in Fish and Game Code Section 4902:

HUNT ZONE	NUMBER OF TAGS
Zone 1 - Marble Mountains	3-5
Zone 2 - Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains	4-6
Zone 3 - Clark/Kingston Mountain Ranges	1-3
Zone 4 - Orocopia Mountains	0-1
Zone 5 - San Geronio Wilderness	0-2
Zone 6 - Sheep Hole Mountains	1-3
Zone 7 - White Mountains	3-6
Open Zone Fund-Raising Tags	1-3
TOTAL	13-29

The number of tags allocated for each of the seven hunt zones is based on the results of the Department's 2007 estimate of the bighorn sheep population in each zone. Tags are proposed to allow the take of less than 15 percent of the mature rams estimated in each zone. The original proposal is modified to provide specific tag numbers for each zone as follows:

HUNT ZONE	NUMBER OF TAGS
Zone 1 - Marble Mountains	5
Zone 2 - Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains	6

Zone 3 - Clark/Kingston Mountain Ranges	3
Zone 4 - Orocopia Mountains	1
Zone 5 - San Geronio Wilderness	1
Zone 6 - Sheep Hole Mountains	1
Zone 7 - White Mountains	3
Open Zone Fund-Raising Tags	3
TOTAL	21

The modified proposal increases the number of fund-raising tag from two to three. The additional fund-raising tag is added because the total number of public tags is 20, and 15% of that number is three. **The original proposal is also modified to allow the fund-raising tagholders hunting access in Zone 4 (Orocopia Mountains) because bighorn sheep rams have shown recovery in that zone.**

The Text of Subsection 362(b) is modified as shown in double strikeout/underline, as follows:

(b) Seasons:

(1) Fund-raising Hunts: The holder of the fund-raising license tag issued pursuant to subsection 4902(d) of the Fish and Game Code may hunt:

(A) Zones 1 through ~~3, 4~~, and 6: Beginning the first Saturday in November and extending through the first Sunday in February.

~~(B) Zone 4: No hunting season for fund-raising tagholders in this zone.~~

~~(C)~~ Zone 5: Beginning the third Saturday in November and extending through the third Sunday in February.

~~(D)~~ Zone 7: Beginning the first Saturday in August and extending through the last Sunday in September.

(2) Except as provided in subsection 362(b)(1), the Nelson bighorn sheep season in the areas described in subsection 362(a) shall be defined as follows:

(A) Zones 1 through 4, and 6: The first Saturday in December and extend through the first Sunday in February.

(B) Zone 5: The third Saturday in December and extend through the third Sunday in February.

(C) Zone 7: Beginning the third Saturday in August and extending through the last Sunday in September.

(3) Except as specifically provided in section 362, the take of bighorn sheep is prohibited.

YOU ARE REMINDED that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Beach Resort Monterey, La Grande Room, 2600 San Dunes Drive, Monterey, California, on Friday, May 9, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before May 7, 2008 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on May 7, 2008. All comments must be received no later than May 9, 2008 at the hearing in Monterey, CA. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, John Carlson, Jr., Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to John Carlson, Jr., or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Craig Stowers, Wildlife Programs Branch, Department of Fish and Game, phone (916) 445-3553, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

Jon D. Snellstrom
Associate Governmental Program Analyst